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A.—(*a*) *to* (*d*) No complaints have been received by Government. Mention has been made of such delays in the audit reports of certain taluk boards, e.g., Chicacole, Proddattur, Rayachoti and Palladam; and Government have warned these boards against similar delays in future. The Director of Public Instruction recently reported that there has been great delay in the disbursement of salaries to teachers by the Markapur Taluk Board and a report has been called for from that Board.

As regards the Taluk Boards in the Malabar and South Kanara districts it is observed from the audit reports for the year 1929–30 that the Malabar District Board and the Chirakkal Taluk Board had not been disbursing the salaries regularly. The Chirakkal Taluk Board has since been abolished. In reviewing the audit report of the Malabar District Board that body has been asked to see that such delays do not recur.

Access to depressed classes to wells and tanks under local bodies.

* 272 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received information that there are still some wells, tanks, public roads, pathways and schools under local bodies to which access is denied to the depressed classes;

(*b*) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to put a stop to the practice wherever it exists; and

(*c*) whether the local bodies have been warned against the perpetuation of such distinctions on pain of being subjected to punitive measures such as withholding of grants for the purpose of digging wells, tanks, etc.?

A.—(*a*) No case where the depressed classes have been denied access to wells, tanks, public roads and pathways has come to the notice of the Government. In 1929–30 there were 1,508 schools in the Presidency held in places inaccessible to pupils of the depressed classes. Later figures are not available but the number must have been considerably reduced by this time.

(*b*) *&* (*c*) The questions do not arise in respect of wells, tanks, public roads and pathways. As regards schools, the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (*c*) of question No. 809 at the meeting of the Council held on 28th March 1931.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" Sir, with reference to the answers given to clauses (*b*) and (*c*), viz., ' The questions do not arise in respect of wells, tanks, public roads and pathways,' may I know why, Sir? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" No, Sir."

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Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" May I know whether there have been no such denials at all in the past? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I can't say."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" May I know from the hon. the Chief Minister whether some of the local boards are awaiting his order on this subject? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Not that I am aware of."

Medical

Principle of selection of Medical Officers for the Agency.

* 273 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the principle, if any, on which medical officers are selected for service in the Agency?

A.—There are no specific rules for the selection of medical officers for duty in the Agency tracts. The period of duty in those tracts is generally fixed at two years so as not to keep the officers too long in what is occasionally an unhealthy area. Of the officers available for service, usually the more junior and active are selected.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know who was the person transferred to the Agency tracts prior to the present incumbent serving there? May I know the reason why he was transferred there and what his age was at the time of transfer? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" The question does not refer to any specific incumbent."

Purpose and cost of the Conference of District Medical Officers and Civil Surgeons.

* 274 *Q.*—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Surgeon-General to the Government of Madras is holding a conference of all the District Medical Officers and Civil Surgeons in the Presidency;

(*b*) if so, what is the purpose for which the conference is being held; and

(*c*) what is the expenditure involved in the holding of the conference?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) For the discussion of certain important questions connected with the development of the Medical Department.

(*c*) About Rs. 3,880.

Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA :—" In answer to clause (*b*) it is stated that the conference is held ' for the discussion of certain important questions connected with the development of the Medical department'. May I know what are those important questions? "